

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the third paragraph, on page 4, with the following rewritten paragraph as follows:

Turning now to Figs. 4-6, a series of rectangular grate panels 50 are mounted so that the four corners of each panel rests upon the top surface of four pedestals that reside in adjacent rows and columns. The pedestals are spaced apart in the rows and columns on equal centers so that the corners of the panels come together at the center of the pedestals to establish a subfloor. The pedestals in the outermost rows and columns may be cut along the center axis of the row or column so that the edges of the edge pedestals 53 (Fig. 4) are parallelly aligned with the outer edges of the overlying panels. In this way, the panels can be brought in close alignment with the sidewalls of a terrace or balcony that form the perimeter of the substructure.

Preferably, the panels are placed in edge to edge contact upon the pedestals or alternatively, a cruciform joint divider ~~such as that depicted at 43 in Fig. 4~~ can be used to help space and align the grate panels in assembly. The grate panels can be made of any suitable material such as steel, aluminum, plastic or fiberglass, depending upon the specific deck application and its intended load carrying capability. Each grate panel contains a series of perforations 52-52 that pass downwardly through the top and bottom surfaces of the panels which reduce the weight of the panels without substantially reducing the load carrying capacity of the system. Although the perforations are shown as being square shaped and parallelly aligned, the perforations can be almost any shape and can be placed in any suitable pattern which will not adversely effect the panel's load carrying capacity.